

[illegible]

## Abstract

The invention relates to a method for preparing an antibody-producing cell line capable of directed constitutive hypermutation of a specific nucleic acid region, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) screening a clonal cell population for V gene diversity; b) isolating one or more cells which display V gene diversity and comparing the rate of accumulation of mutations in the V genes and other genes of the selected cells; and c) selecting a cell in which the rate of V gene mutation exceeds that of other gene mutations.